



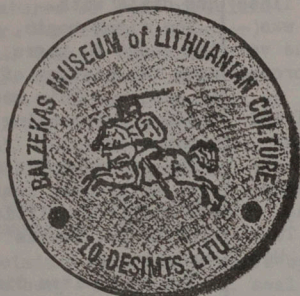
THE

KNIGHT



No. 2. OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION August-September 1978 \$1.00

MUSEUM ISSUES TOKEN

TRANSLATION
PROJECT TO BEGIN

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago has issued a special wooden 10 Litu token commemorating the 60th anniversary of Lithuania's declaration of independence.

The two inch tokens, printed in green, were designed by Frank Passic, co-organizer of the L.N.A. The obverse of the token features Vytautas, Lithuania's national symbol. The legend reads, "BALZEKAS MUSEUM OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE 10 DESIMTS LITU."

The litas was independent Lithuanian's monetary unit, and the 10 Litu coins were struck in silver in 1936 and 1938.

The reverse of the token is in remembrance of the 1938 10 Litu (Y-14) commemorative which was issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of independence from Russia.

The top legend reads, "SESIASDESIMT METU NEPRIKLAUSOMYBES" (60 years of independence) "LX" for 60 appears at the bottom. In the center: The Columns, Lithuania's symbol of freedom, a figure of seven straight lines, and "LIETUVA 1918-1978."

Only 1,000 tokens were prepared. They are for sale while they last (they are selling very fast) for \$50¢ each and a S.A.S.E. mailed to: Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture 4012 Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60632.

BOOKS 'N REVIEW

Cyclopedia of Lithuanian Numismatics Vol. I. by Dr. Alexander M. Rackus. Published by the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, Chicago, Illinois 1965. 343 pages, bi-lingual, hard cover. Many illustrations.

(Background: Dr. Rackus was a well-known numismatist and a curator at the Vytautas the Great National Museum in Kaunas. His vast numismatic collection of over 30,000 individual pieces was sold to that museum, but was lost to the Russians in 1940. After returning to the U.S., Dr. Rackus continued to collect. He died in 1965. It should be noted that there are several historical errors in this book, as Dr. Rackus had the tendency to "fanticize." His statements about Victor David Brenner being

PHOTOS NEEDED

The LNA is currently looking for clear, sharp, black and white photographs of Lith coins and currency.

With the many upcoming articles, we would like to have photos in our files which we could use when needed.

If you have such photographs (such as an extra ANASC photo), please write. We will give proper credit as these are printed in future issues.

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA'S

ONLY **GOLD COIN.**DON'T MISS IT! SUBSCRIBE TO THE KNIGHT.

LITH. PAPER PRESENTED

The first issue of The Knight was presented to World Coin News managing editor Russ Rulau by Robert Douchis on May 22. Douchis is one of the directors of the L.N.A.

The presentation took place at the banquet of the Maryland Numismatic Society at Wong's Restaurant in Baltimore.

Rulau, the featured speaker, spoke on "ethnic collecting" and recalled in his speech the series of letters which had appeared in WCN concerning Li. numismatics.

The June 13 issue of WCN announced the LNA, and the presentation.

PHILATELIC ORGNATIONS.

Those interested in collecting Lithuanian Stamps may write: Lithuanian Philatelic Society, c/o Kazys Rozanskas 3450 W. 62nd St. Chicago, IL 60629, or the Lithuanian Stamp Bulletin c/o Walter Norton, 2647 Eddington St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19137. Both organizations publish monthly bulletins. Mention the L.N.A. when writing.

The Lithuanian Numismatic Association, in cooperation with Lithuanian numismatic translators in the U.S. and Canada, will soon begin a serialization in the English language of Dr. Jonas Karys' book, "Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai". This book is THE authority on modern Lithuanian money, and contains many hidden facts heretofore unavailable to the collecting community. Dr. Karys was director of the mint in Kaunas and has written several books and numerous articles.

It is the hope of the LNA to cover approx. 15 or so Karys pages in each issue of The Knight. With that in mind, this will be a 2 year project, or 12 issues.

This will require adding 3 more pages to each issue of The Knight. These will contain the Karys translation, printed sideways, so 3 Karys pages can be translated on each side of one of our pages. We intend to cover the entire book, including the valuable footnotes and remarks made at the bottom and accompanying tables and charts.

With that in mind, our costs for printing The Knight will more than double. Each extra pg. costs us at least \$15. In order to cover the extra printing costs, we are establishing a "Translation Project Fund" to take care of this need. Words cannot express the valuable information to be found in Dr. Karys' book. If you wish to help financially, every bit helps; we will list donors to the fund in The Knight.

If you are knowledgeable in numismatics and can translate from Lithuanian into English in an accurate and fluent way, please write and become a volunteer. We hope to have several translators, so as to "share the burden" among several people. Unless requested, we will go ahead and assign specific chapters. We have prepared a detailed instruction sheet which we will send to all volunteers.

Copies of this book are still available from the Balzekas Museum. Price is \$10 each. When writing, REQUEST FIRST CLASS POSTAGE and enclose an extra \$3 to do so. If not, book will be sent book rate and will take several weeks. The Chicago P.O. has a reputation for mutilating and "losing" things sent lower class.

Continued on page **2**.

STRANGE INSCRIPTION

In 1565 and 1566 Lithuania minted a number of 3 grašiai coins with the strange Biblical inscription, QUI HABITAT IN COELIS IRRIDEBIT EOS. The late Dr. A.M. Rackus discusses this in his book, Cyclopedia of Lithuanian Numismatics on page 8:

"Especially on commemorative coins and medals can see peculiar traits in the nations character, its aesthetic inclinations, customs, spirit, religion, and morals.

Lithuanian coins of olden days differed in many ways from the coin of other neighboring nations. Sometimes on some of the Lithuanian coins one can not help notice the peculiar Lithuanian way of expressing their national self-respect. Lithuanians managed even to express their protest against injustice and to defend their national rights in a cultural way through their coins.

For example, Lithuania minted vastly good silver three gros coins in the year 1565 and 1566 with the following unusual inscription in Latin: QUI HABITAT IN COELIS IRRIDEBIT EOS (Psalm 2:4), which means, "He who dwelleth in the heavens shall deride them."

Those coins dealt a terrific blow to the arrogant lords of Poland who always liked to interfere in the internal affairs of Lithuania. Such coins in an international language was variously interpreted throughout the world and cause, and is still causing, an embarrassment to Poland."

DEALERS CORNER

This issue our featured dealer is Karl Stephens, P.O. Box 458 Temple City, Calif 91780. When writing, please mention the INA. Mr. Stephens has the largest stock of Lithuanian money in the U.S. Potential customers may write him for a list.

Dear INA:

"I was very pleased to receive your informative publication, The Knight, and would be most interested in receiving all future issues.

As the leading dealer of coins of Lithuania, and other Baltic countries, I would be most interested in keeping the members of the LNA current with what I am offering.

I became interested in coins at the age of 11; and by age 12, I was part-time dealer. By the time I was sent by the U. S. Air Force to Europe at age 18, I had already developed an interest in foreign coins.

After completing my college and working a few years in marketing, I accepted a position at Bowers & Ruddy Galleries of Hollywood. While working there as manager I had the exciting opportunity of traveling to Brazil to purchase the Stanislaw Herstal collection of Polish coins and cataloging them strictly by myself. Shortly after, we received the Henry J. Nagorka collection which I also cataloged. This unique opportunity of cataloging the two largest Polish collections offered in many years lead me to specialize in Polish and Baltic-related numismatics.

Since leaving B & R in 1976, I have become the leading specialist in Polish and Baltic materials."

Sincerely, Karl Stephens

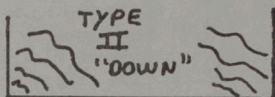
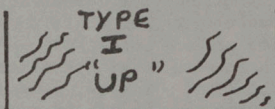
VARIETY DISCOVERY

All owners of Lithuania's first paper currency, the 1922 1 Centas (Pi-1) banknote, should examine their specimen carefully to determine a new type variety recently discovered by Robert Douchis.

The variety involves the background lines on the obverse and the direction in which the lines are moving. Since the note was printed in one printing, the variety was in the engraving process and not in the printing.

We will call these Type I and Type II. Type I has the lines moving "up" from the left side. This appears to be more common. Type II has the lines moving "down" from the left side. To date we know of 1 specimen. We are sure there are others.

Write us and let us know what your's is! The note is dated Kaunas, 1922 rugšėjo (Sept) 10 d. Lietuvos Bankas.



ANA BOOKS

As a continuation from the last issue of The Knight, here are more books available from the A.N.A. mail library in Colorado Springs Co. on loan to its members:

AA45 Karys, Jonas

K3 Numismatika, dictionary, studies. 340pgs. In Lithuanian.

JJ20 Gumowski, Marian

G8 Hanbuch der Polnischen Numismatik (A small portion translated in this issue of The Knight) In German. 226 pgs.

JM93 Holmasto, Thure R.

H6 Latvia-Lettland; metallirahat ja setelit. 12 pgs, 1969 Helsinki.

GOLD ON EXHIBIT

Several brilliant UNC gold coins of medieval Lithuania are on exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology in Washington, D.C. as part of the J.K. Lilly, Jr. collection. They are in the Polish section listed as "struck for Lithuania."

10 Ducats 1616 Sigismund III
10 Ducats 1617

5 Ducats 1622 (Vilnius mint)

1 Ducat 1622

½ Ducat 1665 John Casimir

Also on exhibit is a Lithuanian grivna (silver bar money) of the 12-13 century, listed under Russia as part of the DuPont collection.

Lineli in bloom appears on the reverse of the 1925 1 and 5 centas coins.

BOOKS CONT... 2.

the son of a Dovas Baranauškas are especially false)--f.p.

Review:

The books title is somewhat misleading, as it deals with a "hodge-podge" of subjects. 4 main topics are dealt with.

The first topic, covering about 20 pages, deals with the history of numis. in general. This section is very interesting and informative.

The second topic deals with Lithuanian numismatists and personalities, including Dr. Rackus' own experiences.

The third item discussed is the etymology of the words "moneta" and "pinigas." Dr. Rackus goes into great detail.

The main topic covered is a complete listing and history of the mounds built by the Lithuanian people throughout the centuries.

These mounds were filled with various items and each had a name and a specific function. One of the more famous mounds readers might recall is the "mound of the crosses" located near Šiauliai.

There are numerous hand-processed sketches, vignettes, and color illustrations throughout the bk.

A few copies are still available from the Balze-kas museum for \$18 each.

Again, include an extra \$3 and request first class postage to insure proper delivery.

COIN HOLDERS

Several readers have expressed an interest in having custom-made plastic holders for a complete YL-14 regular Lithuanian coins.

If there is serious interest in this, we will go ahead and get price quotes and the cost for quantities. If you would be seriously interested in something like this, write us and let us know. These would probably be red background with gold lettering, approx. 9" X 5" or so.

EXHIBIT WINS

A complete set of UNC Lith. coins took 3rd place Foreign division at the Michigan State Numismatic Society show held June 17-18 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. A

5 centai uniface pattern proof-like was included in the exhibit.

BANKNOTE P-27 1930 20 LITU COMMEMORATIVE

3.

1930 20 Litu

Pi 27

Size: 140 X 75 mm

Color: Brown

Origin: Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.

London, England.

Serial letters: A,B,C,D

Signatures of bank officials:

Ig. Musteikis (director)

J. Paknys (Director)

Vl. Stasinskas (director)

(was director general of
the bank in 1930)

J. Masiulis (director)

V. Statkus (director)

Designer: Juozas Zikaras

Engraver: A. Galdikas

Specimens: Known as stamped by
Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. seal,
and others with "PAVYZDIS"
(specimens used by the banks)
stamped in red.

The notes are dated July 5,
1930 Kaunas. These were put into
circulation on May 15, 1931,
however.

Sample of current prices:

VG: \$22. F: \$28. VF: \$35.

UNC: \$50. Specimen: \$150.00

The 1930 20 Litu commemorates
the 500 anniversary of the death
of Lithuania's greatest patriarch,
Vytautas Didysis, Vytautas the
Great. Under Vytautas (1392-1430)
, Lithuania was a major European
power and stretched from the Baltic
to the Black Seas, covering 350,-
000 square miles. It was Vytautas
who defeated the Teutonic knights
in the Battle of Tannenburg in 1410.
That victory meant self-rule for
Lithuania.

OBVERSE: The obverse features a
portrait of Vytautas on the left.
On the right side is a stylized
spearhead and cross, with Vytautas'
"V" mark. This spearhead was used
by Vytautas and his father Kestutis
on medieval Lithuanian coins.

In the center is a picture of the
Vytautas the Great church in Kaunas.
Under the church appears "DIVIDESMT
LITU LIETUVOS BANKAS (20 Litas,
Bank of Lithuania)."

The signatures at the bottom of
bank officials are surrounded by
a background of stylized crosses.

In small print at the bottom is
the date, city, and a value statement
that 1 litas (vienas litas) was
worth, or contains 0.15046 grams of
gold (grammu Gryno auksa).

REVERSE: The reverse of this note
shows a really beautiful scene of
the Lithuanian seaport of Klaipeda
(former German Memel). Notice the
ships in the harbor!

On the left is a portrait of the
famous Lithuanian statue of freedom.
This statue, designed by sculptor
Juozas Zikaras, who designed Lithuania's
coins and banknotes, stood on the
front garden of the Vytautas the
Great National Museum located in
Kaunas. The statue depicts Lithuanian
Freedom rising with wings and
raising a flag in her right hand,



and holding the broken chains of
bondage in her right. This statue
was of great symbolism and strength
to the Lithuanian people. Not
surprisingly, it was totally des-
troyed by the occupying Russians
in 1944.

On the bottom of the note in sm-
all print appears the interesting
words, "Banknotų Padirbimas ista-
tymų Baudzimas" which means "Bank-
note counterfeits are forbidden
and punishable by law."

It should be noted that in near-
by hostile Poland, counterfeits
of Lithuanian coins and currency
were being manufactured.

WANT ADS

WANTED: German 5 Ostmark dated
Kaunas April 4, 1918 (banknote)
Pi R-130, in AU-UNC condition.
Need to complete set. Write: Frank
Passic 900 S. Eaton St. Albion,
Michigan 49224.

WANTED: The following banknotes
in fine or better: 1 Litas 9/10/22
P-6, 5 Litai 11/16/22 P-15, 5
Litai red & brn P-17, 50 Litu 11
/16/22 P-19, 100 Litu 11/16/22
P-20, and the rare 1938 10 Litu.
Write: Robert Douchis Box 250
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Want ads are a service to our
subscribers. If you need something
just write and we'll list it.

CAMP MONEY

A new book, World War II
Military Currency by Fred
Schwan pictures a 1 Doleris
Lithuanian UNRRA displaced
persons camp money in its
introduction section, as an
example of that type of
currency used during WWII.

These notes were printed
bi-lingual, in the 10, 50
centu, and 1 doleris denom-
inations. They were dated
1946 at Daliny and Schein-
feld.

Anyone familiar with these
notes as to their history,
use, etc is asked to conta-
ct us here at The Knight, as
we are in the process of
compiling information about
these for publication in
a future issue.

UNIFACE AUCTION

Dealer Joseph L. Lepczyk of
Box 751 E. Lansing, Mi 48823
(517) 332-8581 will auction
two Lithuanian uniface test
strikes at his auction Sept
22-23 at the INS convention.
They are the 1925 5 centai
obverse, and the 1925 20
centu reverse. Average
market value has been in the
\$100 range for these.

LET'S ALL PITCH IN

Well here we are--our second issue! In the past month, we have received over 100 responses from collectors and dealers.

Our purpose, as stated in the first issue, is to provide an avenue of sharing numismatic information with each other. We also want to keep you informed as to new items and discoveries. To insure our success, we need your help.

First, please contact collectors of Baltic material, whether medieval or modern. Let them know about us.

Second, we need volunteers for translating, especially from Lithuanian into English in a fluent and accurate way. (See page 1 for announcement about Karys translation)

Third, we are in need of articles and letters to use for publication. Don't worry about sounding "educated". We just want articles about anything you know about Lithuanian and Baltic money.

Finally, The Knight is being published on a non-profit basis by Frank Passic and Robert Douchis. The letters which are sent to Maryland are then answered. From there, everything received is then sent to Mich. where The Knight is assembled and typed up. The final draft is then sent back to Maryland for printing.

After our first issue was printed, the postal rates went up. In addition, our printing costs have increased, especially for pictures (\$3 per picture). We hope you will help us out and become a subscriber with a donation of \$5 or more.

While we have been sending The Knight free to many to "get acquainted," beginning with the next issue, it will be sent to subscribers only.

So, we hope to be hearing from you. Write us, give us your comments, suggestions, articles, and a subscription.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Robert Douchis Frank Passic
Columbia, MD Albion, Michigan

THE KNIGHT published 6 times a year. Address: P.O. Box 250, Columbia, Maryland 21045. Subscription: Donation of \$5 or more.

Leave your Russian AT HOME!

This editorial is being written to inform and educate, as a "dealer education course" to clear up some misconceptions about Lithuanian numismatics which dealers have been ignorant of, even at present.

As a collector of Lithuanian coins, I frequently go around at coin shows and ask for Lithuanian material. About half of the dealers are sincere and say they have none, but politely ask if I would be interested in Russian, German, Polish coins, etc. This is fine.

The other half, unfortunately, especially at the larger shows, make "jokes" which although made in jest, are harsh and reveal the dealer's ignorance about Lithuania's history and people.

When I have asked for Lithuanian coins or currency, these dealers have replied, "...no, but how about some RUSSIAN coins?" laugh-laugh. "...you sure you don't want any RUSSIAN coins?" "...I heard that according to Soviet Life that things aren't too bad in Lithuanian SSR (smile)."

So, these remarks have the effect of telling a bad Polish joke or racial joke in front of the ethnic party. If dealers expect to have an increase in business, they must treat their customers with respect, and be careful what they say, especially with the very sensitive situation concerning the country of Lithuania and the other Baltic republics.

So, all you dealers, here are some FACTS which you should know about Lithuania to help you better understand and serve the Lithuanian collecting community:

1. Lithuania is NOT Russia! Lithuania is located on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea. Russia is located to the east of Lithuania.

2. The Lithuanian language is totally different from Russian, and is not understandable by a Russian! The Lithuanian language is one of the very oldest in the world, and is remarkably similar to ancient Sanskrit.

3. The Lithuanian people are not related to the Russians, either! Neither are they related to the Poles, Germans, or Slavic peoples. The Lithuanian people are in a class by themselves with only the Latvians remotely related to them. It is widely believed that the Lithuanians are the direct descendants of the Aistians (Honorable) of the Indo-European family. Reference to the Aistians was first made by Herodotus in the 5th century B.C.

4. Lithuania is still legally considered a country! Lithuanian diplomatic offices are maintained here in the U.S. (an embassy in Washington D.C. and consulates in several major cities). The U.S. State Department has refused to recognize the incorporation of Lithuania into the USSR. For more information about Lithuania, you may write: Lithuanian Legation Dr. S.A. Backis Charge d'Affaires 2622 16th St N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009.

5. The political situation is as such: The Soviet Union signed a treaty with Lithuania in the 1920's which guaranteed its independence for all time. The USSR openly violated this and invaded the country in 1940 and again in 1944, murdering, and displacing over 900,000 Lithuanians. The country is presently still under Russian occupation, with nationalistic and patriotic movements remaining very high. Lithuanians are frequently sent to Siberia with Russians moved in, so as to try and destroy the Lithuanian nation. In late 1977 there was a major riot in the capital city of Vilnius. Thousands of Lithuanian patriots shouted nationalistic slogans and "Russians-go Home!" Soviet troops invaded the city and patrolled it with automatic weapons.

6. Lithuanians have contributed highly to the science of numismatics: A) Victor David Brenner, the designer of the U.S. Lincoln Cent, and various medals, was a Lithuanian Jew, and was born in Sialiai Lithuania in 1871. B) Amber, the precious gem stone, comes from Lithuania, and was used as a medium of exchange (money) for many centuries.

(Continued on next page)

Mail to: Lithuanian Numismatic Association P.O. Box 250 Columbia, Maryland 21045

Yes! I would like to subscribe. Enclosed is a donation of \$5 or more.

NAME _____

I missed the first issue, please send me one.

ADDRESS _____

I would like to contribute to the "Translation Project Fund" Enclosed is my gift of _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

Any requests for quantities, please write first to obtain cost quotes.

So, those are a few facts which you should know about. If you are one who likes to keep up on such information, we suggest you write to BRIDGES newsletter, a monthly publication P.O. Box 9061 Boston, Mass 02114. Subscriptions are \$3 yearly.

With the above facts in mind, here are a few tips to follow:

1. Don't make Russian jokes.
2. Refer to Lithuania as a country.
3. If the present political situation must be discussed, refer to "occupied Lithuania."
4. Realize that you are talking about a totally different country, and people. They deserve your respect as much as collectors of Poland, Germany, Russia, etc.
5. Become familiar with Lithuanian money, terms, symbols, etc. The Knight is an excellent way to learn about such things. Try to use these terms as often as possible.
6. When you are out of Lithuanian material and an inquiry is made, don't automatically assume that the person will want Russian. Chance are he won't. From now on, ask, "how about some Latvian?" or "some Estonian?" This will sound more friendly and sincere to the Lithuanian collector. Avoid bringing up Russian anything unless the collector brings it up.

ANA CURATOR WRITES

From Kenneth Hallenbeck, Curator of the A. N.A. at Colorado Springs, Colorado:

Thank you very much for sending us a copy of The Knight. I personally will become a member. You might put some kind of notice in your paper as to our inventory of Lith. coins here at the ANA. We have an UNC set, but are missing the following coins: Y-1 1 centas 1925, Y-6 1 litas 1925, Y-7 2 Litu 1925-, and Y-8 5 Litali 1925. Also our Y-13 10 Litu 1936 is in only XF condition. We would certainly be most receptive to receiving donations of any pieces that we do not have for Lithuania. This could include the early medieval pieces as well as any significant medals. As far as I can tell, we have no Lithuanian paper money at all.

My particular interest in Lithuanian coins happens to come about from the fact that in 1955, I was stationed at the Army Language School in Monterey, California. I was in the Lithuanian language department as a typist typing text books. Half of the page was in English and the other half in Lithuanian. I was a coin collector at the time and started picking up a few Lithuanian pieces here and there.

As to my typing experiences there, you'll realize that there are some letters in the Lith. language that do not exist in the English. After some practice, I was able to get up some pretty good speed on the Lith. typewriter. However, one thing that really drove me nuts was a small "u" with a little hook on it. On the Lith. typewriter it was right in the position where the comma is on the English one. I would frequently get going and then hit that "u" with the little hook on it by mistake, instead of a comma. I'm not sure, but I believe that I learned how to swear in Lithuanian at that time!

I also recall being in the Lithuanian Language Department, that one of the gentlemen was Ponas Rastikas. He had been the

LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR.....

Best wishes and long live the LNA! My check for one year membership is attached.

Robert Gwodz, Universal City, California

I have just one comment that comes off the top of my head. I assume that the name of the organization is such that it includes medieval issues, as well as the Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia. But it may be that someone else will be puzzled and wonder how an organization could be built upon 14 Yeoman numbers.

Toyo Yamamoto, Salem, Oregon

Editors Note: Upon reading each issue, you'll find that there are literally hundreds of items to write about. Very little has been available in the English language. We hope to correct this situation. Be ready for some numismatic surprises in future issues!

I am delighted to learn of the LNA and I shall do all I can to further it. Please send me a copy of The Knight

Dr. John A. Muscalus, Historical Paper Money Research Institute, Bridgeport, PA.

Congratulations on the founding of your club. For years I have been collecting coins of the 3 Baltic states. I would appreciate very much a copy of The Knight.

Henry Stark, El Paso, Texas

An organization like this has been needed for a long time--keep up the good work. I know it will be a success. Good Luck.

Victor Dulkis, Maryland, New York

It was with a great deal of interest that I have been following your letters in World Coin News. I too am interested in Lithuanian coinage, especially the 1/2 grašiai series of Sigismund Augustus. So, if you are willing to accept an Irish-Canadian who is married to a Lithuanian, consider this as a letter of support.

J. Graham Esler, London, Ontario Canada

I will be attending the ANA convention in Texas. Is there any applications available to secure new members? Your first issue of The Knight was beautiful, you covered all the bases.

Vincent W. Alones, Floral Park, New York

NOTE: Yes, we sent you a quantity of leaflets for the ANA convention. Thank you for being an active member!

Those are just a few of the over 100 responses which the LNA has received in the past 2 months. A big thank-you to Val Matelis of Coral Gables Florida for helping us out on a couple of translation items.

TRANSLATION

On the following page (6) our translation focus for this issue is on medieval Lith. money. Here we are presenting a section translated from the German text of Hanbuch der Polnischen Numismatik by Marion Gumowski, the noted Polish numismatist. Readers desiring to follow the Gumowski text may order the book, 290 pages, 2654 pictures, hard-cover, for \$26.00 post paid from Bruce Donahue P.O. Box 2104 Littleton, Col. 80161.

On the translation, the paragraphs, lettered to the left A, B, C, etc are skipped, as our attempt is only to deal with that which concerns Lithuanian numismatics. The number to the right refers to the page in the Gumowski text.

This translation is presented to us by Robert Douchis.

former commanding general of the Lithuanian army. He was a very short balding man. He was a fine man and used to ask me many of the military questions. He would have me go through such things a bayonet drill, certain position, marchings, etc. Since he was an instructor, he would then interpret this into Lithuanian for his students who were all military personnel. It was an interesting time.

We would like to put The Knight on the shelves of the library here at the American Numismatic Association, because we have visitors come here, and you might be able to pick up a few members this way.

VII. Sigismund August (1545-1572)

A.

Pg. 37

Characteristics. The reign of this king is characterized by the entire loss of the crown coinage and the limited emission from Lithuanian and marked city coinage. Despite the closing of the Cracow mint there was the coinage union of Polish and Lithuanian lands, the coinage policy of Sigismund August. He succeeded merely slowly at that, while he left in the Lithuanian mints Vilnius and Tykocin 3 different kinds of coin striking. The first kind, denare, half-groschen, and groschen adopted the high value Lithuanian coin standard, they were fixed in value for circulation in Lithuania. For the second kind belonged the groschen, those of the Polish coin standard were selected and were placed in circulation in the crown lands. The third coin standard, the 2,3,4, and 6 groschen pieces, was fixed for circulation in both parts of the municipalities.

This coin policy by no means furthered the union, but brought forth complaints, they were even louder, the population must pay always more for a ducat. It went now already 52 groschen for a ducat. In addition to that came also in lasting quantities large amounts of falsifications (counterfeits) of inferior quality, first of all the Swedish polchen, they were confiscated and re-struck. This period of reign is very important for that reason, because here the seed for the Polish taler and gold portugaleser lie and here in this period also many new kinds of coins were originated i.e. The double and four groschen, the gold, etc. In the group the municle money shined compared to that of Danzig and Elbing and again after a long time that from Fraustadt.

B.

Lithuanian Coinage. Prior to the death of the father, young Sigismund August was destined as great prince for Vilnius;round about here the reign took over. Soon the Lithuanian money state was established and regulated under the supervision of the court master J. Lutomirski. Cracow appointed minters and workers already began to mint in 1545. There were at that time minted obole and denare, halfgroschen and groschen, dreeir, sechser and ducats. They had Lithuanian arms and were, what the coin standard stated, about 20% better than the Polish. This same mint also struck polish groschen for the Cracow coin standard. Since the mint nevertheless offered not enough income in return for the king, became in 1555 a Jewish enterprise leased on behalf of Feliks, until 1562 this Posen held.

In 1562 the Vilnius mint came again into the hands of the king, and became entrusted in the management of the royal secretary Gabriel Tarlo. Before long coinage of three groschen pieces replaced the royal bust with the royal monogram and on the groschen and three groschen is Pg. 38 also found the axe, the Tarlos arms. In the meantime new complaints about each increased, leaving off the king on the three groschen piece brought the satirical inscription, "QUI HABITAT IN COELIS IRRIDEBIT EOS." But in 1561 the Latvian war erupted, the king required more and more money for his soldiers. As an aftermath there originated in the Vilnius mint taler and halftaler of 30 and 15 groschen, new 2 and 4 groschen, new double denare and Polish and Lithuanian groschen. In addition came large sums in Spanish taler, these represent a part restitution, those from Queen Bona and King Philipp II of Spain were over looked as a loan. These talers were in 1564 counterstamped in Vilnius with the royal mark.

In 1566 they apparently abandoned the Lithuanian coin standard completely, and a second coinage place in Tykocin was established. Administrator of this mint was Peter Myszkowski, he was also governor of Cracow; his arms (horseshoe) is also seen on groschen and halfgroschen. They surrendered to the Polish coin standard and this reduction call forth som many complaints, that the king let the mint close down. The land parliament of Lublin resolved beside the politics the Polish and Lithuanian coin union. A double denare of 1570 and a ducat of 1571 were the last striking of this king.

F.

Heinrich III. Von Valois (1573-74) was crowned the Polish king in 1573 and inaugurated despite his promise of no mints, etc. *

G. Pg. 39

NOTE: While Gumowski's work is a recognized numismatic reference it does not treat early, prior to the union with Poland, Lithuanian numismatics accurately. The best and most complete book on ancient Lithuanian coinage is Senoves Lietuviu Pinigai (Ancient Lithuanian coinage, history and numismatics) by Dr. Jonas Karys.

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